

## TWO NOMINATIONS OF GOLDSMITHS TO COLLECT TAXES

By a remarkable coincidence, the publication of Bagnall's edition of P. Yale inv.1648 as P.Rainer Cent.122 and that of Gerardo Casanova of P.Med.inv. 71.66 in Aegyptus 62 (1982) 65-68 fell within a month or so of one another, with neither of us knowing of the other's text. These two agreements, by the guild of goldsmiths of Oxyrhynchus with one of its members, concern the collection of the chrysargyron by that member. The Milanese text comes from 421, the Yale one from 429, but they are very close in wording. Neither text is fully preserved - both are damaged at left and below - but the Yale text is somewhat better preserved. The comparison of the two makes a far more complete reading and restoration of both possible. There are still, however, some points of difficulty in places where the texts are not quite parallel. We give a revised text of each (only the affected part, lines 1-8, of the Yale piece), then a text showing parallels and divergences, a new translation of the Yale piece as restored, and finally a few comments on what is learned from these improvements.

We are grateful to Dr.Casanova for a new and very clear photograph of the Milanese papyrus after some further restoration.

P.Med.inv.71.66 = 5B.16, 12260

29 x 15 cm.

20.xii.421

[ὕπατειας Φλαουλίου Εὐ]σταθίου καὶ Ἀγρικολῶν τῶν λαμπροτάτων Χοιδᾶ καὶ  
vacat

[ἡ λαμπροτάτη ἐργασία] τῶν χρυσοχόων τῆς λαμπρᾶς καὶ λαμπροτάτης Ὀξυρυγ-  
χιτῶν πόλεως

[δι' ἡμῶν τῶν ἐξῆς ὑπο]γραφόντων Αὐρηλίου Χαϊρήμονι Σερήνου ἀπὸ τῆς αὐτῆς  
πόλεως τῆς αὐτῆς ἐργασίας

4 [χαίρειν· τῆς ὀνομασίας χά]ρι[ιν] τοῦ ἐκ τῆς ἡμῶν ἐργασίας [η]τουμένου δι-  
οικητοῦ τοῦ χρυσαργύρου τῆς πέμπτης

[ἰνδικτιόνοος ± 5] σκεθε...ες σὲ τὸν Χαϊρήμονα ἐπιλεξάμενοι μᾶλλον δὲ  
προτρεψάμενοι

[σοὶ ἐνετε]λαμεν καὶ κα[τεπι]σ[τεύ]σαμεν ποιῆ[σα]ι τὴν διοίκησιν, ἡμῶν  
ἐπαγγειλαμένων

[πάντα τὰ ± 9] προφά[σι] ταύτης τῆς διοικη[σ]ε[ω]ς γινόμενα ἀναλώ-  
μ[α]τα εἴτε ἐπὶ τόπων

8 [εἴτε ἐν τῇ τάξει ἡμᾶς] ἐπιγν[ώ]ν[αι] καὶ καταβαλεῖν διὸ καὶ τὴν ἐγγραφὴν

S.B. 16.  
12260

= 18.13882

ταύτην ἀσφαλῖαν

9 [ἐθέμεθα σοι καὶ ὁμολογοῦμεν τοῖς] παντοίοις ἀναλώμασιν [ζητου]μένοις εἰς  
τὴν ἡμῶν

[διοίκησιν] ] traces

5b 18. P.Yale inv.1648 = P.Rainer Cent.122 39.4 x 25 cm.

19.ix.429

[Μετὰ τὴν ὑπατεῖαν Φλαουίων Φή]λικος καὶ Ταύρου τῶν λαμπροτάτων θωδ κβ/  
vacat

[ἡ (e.g.) λαμπροτάτη ἐργασία τῶν χρυσοχόων τῆς λαμπρᾶς καὶ λαμπροτάτης  
'Οξυρυχιτῶν πόλεως δι' ἡμῶν τῶν ἐξῆς ὑπογρ[αφόντων]  
[Αὐρηλίῳ Χαιρήμονι Σερήνου] ἀπὸ τῆς αὐτῆς πόλεως τῆς αὐτῆς ἐργασίας χαί-  
ρειν· τῆς ὀνομασίας χάριν τοῦ ἐκ τῆς ἡμ[ῶν]

4 [ἐργασίας ζητουμένου διοικητοῦ τοῦ] χρυσαργύρου τῆς τρισκαιδεκάτης Ἰνδικ-  
τίονος σὲ τὸν Χαιρήμονα ἐπιλεξάμενοι μᾶλλον δε  
[προτρεψάμενοι σοὶ ἐνετε[λ]ῶμεν καὶ κατεπιστεῦσαμεν ποιῆσαι τὴν διοίκησιν,  
ἡμῶν ἐπαγγειλαμένων πάν[τα?]

[τὰ προφάσει ταύτης τῆς δι[ο]ικήσεως γιγνόμενα ἀναλώματα εἴτε ἐπὶ τόπων  
εἴτε ἐν τῇ τάξει εἴτε σκάματος

[ ] ἐκδημίας προφάσι τῆς αὐτῆς διο[ι]κήσεως  
ἡμᾶς ἐπιγινῶναι καὶ καταβαλεῖν δι[ό]

8 [καὶ τὴν ἐγγραφὸν ταύτην ἀσφά]λιαν ἐθ[έ]μεθα [σοι] καὶ ὁμολογο[ῦ]μεν τοῖς  
παντύοις ζητουμένοις εἰς τὴν ἡμῶν

[διοίκησιν κτλ.

8 παντοίους

## Parallel Texts

M [ἡ λαμπροτάτη ἐργασία] τῶν χρυσοχόων τῆς λαμπρᾶς καὶ λαμπροτάτης 'Οξυρυγ-

Y [ἡ λαμπροτάτη ἐργασία τῶν χρυσοχόων τῆς λαμπρᾶς καὶ λαμπροτάτης 'Οξυρυγ-

M χιτῶν πόλεως [δι' ἡμῶν τῶν ἐξῆς ὑπο]γραφόντων Αὐρηλίῳ Χαιρήμονι Σερήνου

Y χιτῶν πόλεως δι' ἡμῶν τῶν ἐξῆς ὑπογρ[αφόντων Αὐρηλίῳ Χαιρήμονι Σερήνου]

M ἀπὸ τῆς αὐτῆς πόλεως τῆς αὐτῆς ἐργασίας [χαίρειν· τῆς ὀνομασίας χά]ρ[ιν]

Y ἀπὸ τῆς αὐτῆς πόλεως τῆς αὐτῆς ἐργασίας χαίρειν· τῆς ὀνομασίας χάριν

M τοῦ ἐκ τῆς ἡμῶν ἐργασίας ζητουμένου διοικητοῦ τοῦ χρυσαργύρου τῆς πέμπ-

Y τοῦ ἐκ τῆς ἡμ[ῶν] ἐργασίας ζητουμένου διοικητοῦ τοῦ] χρυσαργύρου τῆς τρισ-

M της [Ἰνδικτιόνος .....]σχεθε...ες σὲ τὸν Χαιρήμονα ἐπιλεξάμενοι

Y καιδεκάτης Ἰνδικτιόνος σὲ τὸν Χαιρήμονα ἐπιλεξάμενοι

M μάλλον δὲ προτρεψάμενοι [σοὶ ἐνετέλαμεν] καὶ κα[τεπι]σ[τεύ]σαμεν ποιῇ-  
 Y μάλλον δὲ [προτρεψάμενοι σοὶ ἐνετέλ]αμεν καὶ κατεπιστεύσαμεν ποιῇ-  
 M [σα]ι τὴν διοίκησιν, ἡμῶν ἐπαγγειλαμένων [πάντα τὰ ± 9 ] προφάσι  
 Y σαι τὴν διοίκησιν, ἡμῶν ἐπαγγειλαμένων πάν[τα? τὰ προφάσει  
 M τα]ύτης τῆς διοικῆ[σ]ε[ω]ς γιγνόμενα ἀναλώμ[α]τα εἴτε ἐπὶ τόπων [εἴτε ἐν  
 Y ταύτης τῆς δι]οικῆσεως γιγνόμενα ἀναλώματα εἴτε ἐπὶ τόπων εἴτε ἐν  
 M τῇ τάξει]  
 Y τῇ τάξει εἴτε σκάματος [ ] ἐκδημίας προφάσι τῆς αὐτῆς διο[ι]-  
 M ἡμᾶς ἐπιγν[ῶν]αι καὶ καταβαλεῖν, διὸ καὶ τὴν ἔγγραφον ταύτην ἀσ-  
 Y κήσεως ἡμᾶς ἐπιγνῶναι καὶ καταβαλεῖν, δι[ὸ καὶ τὴν ἔγγραφον ταύτην ἀσ-  
 M φάλιαν [ἐθέμεθά σοι καὶ ὁμολογοῦμεν τοῖς] παντοίοις ἀναλώμασιν [ζη-  
 Y φά]λιαν ἐθ[έ]μεθά [σο]ι καὶ ὁμολογο[ῦ]μεν τοῖς παντούς [ζη-  
 M του]μένους εἰς τὴν ἡμῶν [διοίκησιν  
 Y του]μένους εἰς τὴν ἡμῶν [διοίκησιν

## Translation (P.Yale):

[After the consulate of the Flavii] Felix and Taurus the most illustrious, Thoth 22. [The most illustrious (?) guild of the] goldsmiths of the illustrious and most illustrious city of the Oxyrhynchites, through us who sign below, [to Aurelius Chairemon son of Serenus], from the same city (and) from the same guild, greeting. Having chosen and indeed [preferred] you, Chairemon, for the nomination for the [manager demanded] from our [guild] for the chrysargyron for the thirteenth indiction, we empowered you and entrusted you to carry out the management, with us promising that we would accept responsibility for and pay all the expenses which occur [on account of this] management, whether locally or in office or ... [or on account of?] travel on account of the same management, wherefore we have also made with you [this written] agreement, and we agree with all manner of things demanded for our [management].

From the setting out of the parallel texts, it can be seen that the formula is almost identical. The few remaining problems, of course, occur in those places where it is not. In line 5 of the P.Med., we cannot discover what followed the indiction; about five letters in the lacuna, followed by about another nine after it, have no parallel in P.Yale. The remains would allow the reading  $\pi\rho\omicron\sigma\chi\epsilon\theta\acute{\epsilon}\nu\tau\epsilon\varsigma$ , for example, but we do not see its sense. The second problem occurs in line 7 of P.Med., where there is space in the lacuna for more than one can with any confidence make out in P.Yale. It is

conceivable that the latter, which is effaced at the end of line 5, had some further text there. Nothing else seems needed grammatically. The third divergence occurs in lines 6-7 of P.Yale, where there is an additional phrase not found in P.Med. (the result of some unhappy disagreement in the meantime?). P.Med. thus does not, alas, illuminate the mysterious  $\sigma\alpha\delta\sigma\mu\alpha\tau\omicron\varsigma$  of P.Yale. We assume that the guild promised to reimburse all expenses pertinent to the tax-collection incurred by Chairemon either in town (i.e. in Oxyrhynchus) or elsewhere (cf. line 8,  $\acute{\epsilon}\kappa\delta\eta\mu\acute{\iota}\alpha\varsigma$ ). Within this context one might wish to connect  $\sigma\alpha\delta\sigma\mu\alpha\tau\omicron\varsigma$  with the verb  $\sigma\alpha\delta\acute{\iota}\omega$  = to limp, in which case one might think of tax-revenues coming in quite irregularly; their collection would have caused extra costs (for this meaning of  $\sigma\alpha\delta\acute{\iota}\omega$  cf. also Pr. WB, s.v.). On the other hand, it should be noted that the noun  $\sigma\alpha\delta\sigma\mu\alpha$  is not listed in LSJ. One could also regard  $\sigma\alpha\delta\sigma\mu\alpha\tau\omicron\varsigma$  as a slight spelling error for  $\sigma\chi\delta\sigma\mu\alpha\tau\omicron\varsigma$  and connect it with the verb  $\sigma\chi\delta\acute{\iota}\omega$  = to relax effort, cease an action (cf. LSJ s.v., 4).  $\Sigma\chi\delta\sigma\mu\alpha$  (listed in LSJ as meaning, i.a.,: release, letting off) might mean here, then, "interruption, intermission", and reference might have been made to extra costs arising from an interruption in normal tax-collection procedures because of some official journey (restore, e.g.,  $\sigma\alpha\delta\sigma\mu\alpha\tau\omicron\varsigma$  [τινος χάριν εἰτε ἐπὶ τινος] ἐκδημίᾳς vel sim. at the start of line 7?). As we do not know precisely how the construction went, it is hard to arrive at a certain interpretation.\*)

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\*) P.Med.inv.71.66 will be republished as SB XVI 12260.